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Letter dated 3 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

1. I have the pleasure of enclosing a resolution on "Conflict diamonds" adopted by the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council of India on 2 May 2000 (see annex).

2. I should also like to bring to your attention the fact that India is fully supportive of the rules of the diamond industry with respect to stopping all trade in conflict diamonds. It supports the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on this issue. Even though India's diamond industry does not import diamonds from any diamond-producing country, or any African country, and even though trade in conflict diamonds is estimated to constitute only 3.7 per cent of the worldwide trade in diamonds, we fully support the moves to stop the trade in conflict diamonds. (The breakdown of India's imports of diamonds is as follows: 19 per cent from the Diamond Trading Company, London; 73 per cent from Belgium; 7 per cent from Israel; and 1 per cent from the United States of America, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China and Thailand.)

3. The Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) of India has taken several steps in this regard which are enumerated below:

- A declaration will be issued by GJEPC along with all importing companies to the effect that diamonds sold do not originate from the conflict zones;
- GJEPC will publicly announce that any individual trading in conflict diamonds will be expelled from GJEPC and consequently will not be able to transact any business, since GJEPC membership is a prerequisite of trading in diamonds;
- Complete transparency will be observed and export-import data on India's diamond trade will be published on a monthly basis.

4. India also believes that legitimate trade in diamonds, comprising over 96 per cent of diamonds traded, should not become affected, as on it depends the livelihood of very large numbers of people, including 1 million people in India.

5. I should be grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kamalesh **Sharma**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 3 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council of India resolution on "Conflict diamonds"

The Indian diamond trade is shocked to note that illicit diamonds from Angola, Sierra Leone and the Congo are understood to be used for funding the activities of rival terrorist groups like the *União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola* (UNITA) in Angola. This is contrary to United Nations resolutions.

It is a matter of deep concern that "conflict diamonds", however negligible, should find their way into the mainstream of the world diamond trade. It should be the endeavour of each and every centre to see that such diamonds do not find their way into any international diamond centre.

The Indian diamond trade would take all precautions and necessary steps to keep away from "conflict diamonds" and extend its support to any international body for achieving the above objective.

Imports of rough diamonds into India are monitored through a system of import licensing and these imports are sourced only from traditional international centres and not from any conflict areas.

It is also the considered view of the Indian diamond trade that legitimate diamond producers and processing centres are not inadvertently hurt in the process. In order that this objective may be achieved, the international diamond community should also suggest a road map that would avert the flow of diamonds from identified conflict areas and other such measures to achieve the desired results and at the same time accelerate the growth of the legitimate business of diamonds.